REMARKS:

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-20 are allowable over the teachings of what he has determined to be the closest prior art references. These references include Ender (United States Patent 3,287,291), and Nakamura et al (United States Patent 5,973,067). However, the Examiner has objected to claims 7, and 13-15 on the basis of certain informalities.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 7 is a redundancy of claim 6 and that claim 9 is a redundancy of claim 8. Claims 7 and 9 have accordingly been canceled.

The Examiner has also suggested that in claim 13 and 14 "wherein X' represents an unsaturated moiety containing at least one non-aromatic double bond" should be deleted. Such changes have been made. The Examiner further indicated that in claim 15, "and oxygen atom" should be changed to --oxygen atom--. Claim 15 has been amended by changing "and oxygen atom" to --an oxygen atom--.

It is believed that the amendments made herein overcome the Examiner's objections. Since all of the claims pending in the subject patent application are allowable over the teachings of the closest prior art references, it is believed that the subject patent application is now in a condition for allowance and such an allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Alvin T Rockhill, Reg. No. 30,417 The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, D/823 1144 East Market Street Akron, Ohio 44316-0001 Telephone: (330) 666-4659